

What is claimed is:

1. A color illuminating system comprising:

a light source that generates and emits white light;

5 a color filter that separates the light beams of different wavelengths from the white light received from the light source and make the light beams travel in a predetermined direction;

a spiral lens disc that alters the paths of the light beams that have passed through the color filter while turning and periodically scrolls the light beams by rotational movement and has a spiral cylindrical lens array at least one surface; and

10 a beam splitter that splits the light beams from the color filter to enter the at least two effective regions of the spiral lens disc.

2. The color illuminating system of claim 1, wherein the color filter comprises;

15 a first dichroic prism that has a first mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light, reflects a first color light beam in the incident white light, and transmits the other color light;

a second dichroic prism that is disposed next to the first dichroic prism and has a second mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light, reflects a second color light beam in the light transmitted through the first dichroic prism, and transmits the other color light; and

20 a third dichroic prism that is disposed next to the second dichroic prism and has a third mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light and reflects a third color light beam in the light transmitted through the second dichroic prism,

25 wherein the first, second, and third mirror surfaces of the first, second, and third dichroic prisms, which are located inside the color filter, allow light that enters at an angle satisfying the conditions of internal total reflection to be totally reflected, minimizing loss of the first, second, and third color light beams.

3. The color illuminating system of claim 2, further comprising;

a first polarizing beam splitter that is formed on an entrance surface of the first dichroic prism and transmits first polarization component in the incident non-polarized white light toward the first dichroic prism and reflect second polarized light;

5 a second polarizing beam splitter that reflects the second polarized light reflected by the first polarizing beam splitter toward the first dichroic prism; and

a half-wave plate that is arranged between the first dichroic prism and one of the first and second polarizing beam splitters to alter the phase of one of the first and second polarized light to be the same each other.

10

4. The color illuminating system of claim 2 or claim 3, further comprising a first collimating lens in an optical path between the light source and the color filter, the first collimating lens converting and transmitting the incident non-polarized white light.

15

5. The color illuminating system of claim 2 or claim 3, further comprising first, second, and third relay lenses that are arranged opposite to the exit surfaces of the first, second, and third dichroic prisms, respectively, and diverge the first, second, and third color light beams, respectively, at a predetermined angle.

20

6. The color illuminating system of claim 5, further comprising a second collimating lens that is arranged in an optical path between the color filter and the beam splitter and converges the first, second, and third color light beams from the color filter.

25

7. The color illuminating system of claim 5, further comprising a plurality of cylindrical lenses that are arranged in an optical path between the beam splitter and the spiral lens disc and in an optical path to receive light from the spiral lens disc and shape the first, second, and third color light beams received at different angles from the beam splitter.

8. The color illuminating system of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a second collimating lens that is arranged in an optical path between the color filter and the beam splitter and converges first, second, and third color light beams from the color filter.

5

9. The color illuminating system of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the beam splitter comprises:

an entrance surface that has a ">"-shaped cross-section and refracts incident first, second, and third color light beams outward away from the optical axis such that at least two split light beams go toward the spiral lens disc; and

10

an exit surface that is parallel to the entrance surface and refracts the at least two split light beams to be closer to the optical axis and parallel to the first, second, and third light beams incident on the entrance surface.

15

10. The color illuminating system of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a plurality of cylindrical lenses that are arranged in an optical path between the beam splitter and the spiral lens disc and in an optical path to receive light from the spiral lens disc and shape split light beams from the beam splitter.

20

11. The color illuminating system of claim 1, wherein the spiral lens disc comprises:

a first spiral lens disc that scrolls incident light; and

a second spiral lens disc that is spaced a predetermined distance from the first spiral lens disc and corrects the angle of divergence of at least two light beams from the first spiral lens disc.

25

12. The color illuminating system of claim 11, further comprising a glass rod that is disposed in an optical path between the first and second spiral lens discs and controls the angle of divergence of the at least two light beams from the first spiral lens disc.

13. The color illuminating system of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 11, and 12, further comprising a fly-eye lens array that is arranged in an optical path to receive the at least two light beams from the spiral lens disc and forms bands of light of different colors in separate regions from the at least two scrolling light beams from the spiral lens disc.

14. The color illuminating system of claim 13, wherein the fly-eye lens array comprises:

a plurality of first fly-eye lenses that are arranged in the optical paths of the at least two light beams from the beam splitter, respectively, and have a two-dimensional array of protrusions on an entrance surface and/or an exit surface; and

a plurality of second fly-eye lenses that are arranged next to the plurality of first fly-eye lenses and have a two-dimensional array of protrusions on an entrance surface and/or an exit surface.

15. The color illuminating system of claim 13, further comprising a fourth relay lens that is arranged in the optical path of light beams from the fly-eye lens array and focuses the bands of light of different colors from the fly-eye lens in predetermined positions.

16. A projection type image display apparatus comprising:

a light source that generates and emits white light;
a color filter that separates the light beams of different wavelengths from the white light received from the light source and make the light beams travel in a predetermined direction;

a spiral lens disc that alters the paths of the light beams that have passed through the color filter and periodically scrolls light by rotational movement and has a spiral cylindrical lens array, which includes a plurality of cylindrical lenses, on at least one surface;

a beam splitter that splits the light beams from the color filter to enter the at least two effective regions of the spiral lens disc;

an optical unit that alters the direction in which light from one of the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc scrolls such that light beams from the first and second effective regions scroll in the same direction and that combines the light beams from the first and second effective regions;

an image forming unit that forms images using the light from the optical unit; and

a projection lens unit that enlarges and projects the images formed by the image forming unit on a screen.

10

17. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 16, wherein the color filter comprises;

a first dichroic prism that has a first mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light, reflects a first color light beam in the incident white light, and transmits the other color light;

a second dichroic prism that is disposed next to the first dichroic prism and has a second mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light, reflects a second color light beam in the light transmitted through the first dichroic prism, and transmits the other color light; and

a third dichroic prism that is disposed next to the second dichroic prism and has a third mirror surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light and reflects a third color light beam in the light transmitted through the second dichroic prism,

wherein the first, second, and third mirror surfaces of the first, second, and third dichroic prisms, which are located inside the color filter, allow light that enters at an angle satisfying the conditions of internal total reflection to be totally reflected, minimizing loss of the first, second, and third color light beams.

18. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 17, further comprising;

a first polarizing beam splitter that is formed on an entrance surface of the first dichroic prism and transmits first polarization component in the incident non-polarized white light toward the first dichroic prism and reflect second polarized light;

5 a second polarizing beam splitter that reflects the second polarized light reflected by the first polarizing beam splitter toward the first dichroic prism; and

a half-wave plate that is arranged between the first dichroic prism and one of the first and second polarizing beam splitters to alter the phase of one of the first and second polarized light to be the same each other.

10 19. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 17 or claim 18, further comprising a first collimating lens in an optical path between the light source and the color filter, the first collimating lens converting and transmitting the incident non-polarized white light.

15 20. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 17 or claim 18, further comprising first, second, and third relay lenses that are arranged opposite to the exit surfaces of the first, second, and third dichroic prisms, respectively, and diverge the first, second, and third color light beams, respectively, at a predetermined angle.

20 21. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a second collimating lens that is arranged in an optical path between the color filter and the beam splitter and converges the first, second, and third color light beams from the color filter.

25 22. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a plurality of cylindrical lenses that are arranged in an optical path between the beam splitter and the spiral lens disc and in an optical path to receive light from the spiral lens disc and shape the first, second, and third color light beams received at different angles from the beam splitter.

23. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16 through 18, further comprising a second collimating lens that is arranged in a optical path between the color filter and the beam splitter and converges first, second, and third
5 color light beams from the color filter.

24. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16 through 18, wherein the beam splitter comprises:

an entrance surface that has a ">"-shaped cross-section and refracts incident first,
10 second, and third color light beams outward away from the optical axis such that at least two split light beams go toward the spiral lens disc; and

an exit surface that is parallel to the entrance surface and refracts the at least two split light beams to be closer to the optical axis and parallel to the first, second, and third light beams incident on the entrance surface.

25. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16 through 18, further comprising a plurality of cylindrical lenses that are arranged in an optical path between the beam splitter and the spiral lens disc and in an optical path to receive light from the spiral lens disc and shape split light beams from the beam splitter.

26. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 16, wherein the spiral lens disc comprises:

a first spiral lens disc that scrolls incident light; and

a second spiral lens disc that is spaced a predetermined distance from the first
25 spiral lens disc and corrects the angle of divergence of at least two light beams from the first spiral lens disc.

27. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 26, further comprising a glass rod that is disposed in an optical path between the first and second spiral lens

discs and controls the angle of divergence of the at least two light beams from the first spiral lens disc.

5 28. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16, 17, 18, 26, and 27, further comprising a fly-eye lens array that is arranged in an optical path to receive the at least two light beams from the spiral lens disc and forms bands of light of different colors in separate regions from the at least two scrolling light beams from the spiral lens disc.

10 29. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 28, wherein the fly-eye lens array comprises:

a plurality of first fly-eye lenses that are arranged in the optical paths of the at least two light beams from the beam splitter, respectively, and have a two-dimensional array of protrusions on an entrance surface and/or an exit surface; and

15 a plurality of second fly-eye lenses that are arranged next to the plurality of first fly-eye lenses and have a two-dimensional array of protrusions on an entrance surface and/or an exit surface.

20 30. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16, 17, 18, 26, and 27, wherein the optical unit further comprises:

a scroll direction altering prism that is arranged in the optical path of the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc and alters the direction in which the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions scrolls such that the light beams from the first and second effective regions scroll in the same direction; and

25 a beam shifter that is arranged in the optical path of the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc and shifts the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions toward the light beam from the other effective region to combine the light beams from the first and second effective regions.

31. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 30, wherein the scroll direction altering prism is an Amichi prism that alters the scroll direction by reversing light from one of the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc.

5

32. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 30, wherein the beam shifter shifts the incident light beam by refracting and transmitting the incident light based on a difference in refractive index and comprises an entrance surface that is inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light beam and an exit surface that is arranged parallel to and separated a predetermined distance from the entrance surface.

10

33. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 30, wherein the beam shifter shifts the incident light beam by totally reflecting the incident light beam and comprises first and second reflection planes that are inclined at an angle to the optical axis of the incident light beam.

15

34. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16, 17, 18, 26, and 27, wherein the optical unit comprises:

20 a polarizing plate that is arranged in an optical path in front of one of the first and second effective regions between the beam splitter and the spiral lens disc and alters the polarization of incident light such that the light beams transmitted through the first and second effective regions have different polarization components;

25 a scroll direction altering prism that is arranged in the optical path of the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc and alters the direction in which the light beam from one of the first and second effective regions scrolls such that the light beams from the first and second effective regions scroll in the same direction; and

a third polarizing beam splitter that is formed on one surface of the scroll direction altering prism and selectively transmits or reflects incident light according to the polarization of the incident light to make the light beams transmitted through the first and second effective regions travel toward the image forming unit along the same optical path.

35. The projection type image display apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a plurality of fourth relay lenses that are arranged in the optical paths of the light beams from the first and second effective regions of the spiral lens disc, respectively, and guide scrolling first, second, and third color light beams from the spiral lens disc to enter the image forming unit along the same optical path.

36. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16, 17, 18, 26, and 27, wherein the image forming unit comprises:

15 a reflection type liquid crystal display that forms the images by modulating the scrolling light from the optical unit; and

a beam splitter that is arranged in front of the reflection type liquid crystal display and alters the optical path of incident light such that light from the optical unit goes toward the reflection type liquid crystal display and light from the reflection type liquid crystal display goes toward the projection lens unit.

37. The projection type image display apparatus of any one of claims 16, 17, 18, 26, and 27, wherein the image forming unit is a micro-mirror device that generates the images by modulating the scrolling light from the optical unit and reflects the generated images in a predetermined direction.